



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Peter McWalters  
Commissioner

To: All superintendents  
From: Peter McWalters  
Date: Wed., May 26th, 2004

Re: Project Safe Neighborhoods

At the request of the U.S. Attorney, Craig N. Moore, I am forwarding to you the attached information about a television program called "Project Safe Neighborhoods," to be aired on Wednesday, June 2nd, at 10:30 a.m. on Cox 3.

I encourage you to notify your principals, and possibly your curriculum directors or department heads, regarding this opportunity. They may access this program, if they so choose, in connection with the Safe Schools agenda, the Safe Neighborhoods agenda, Healthy Schools/Healthy Kids, or the Healthy Community agenda as part of their curriculum.

Please see the attached letter from the U.S. Attorney for more information about this program.

**Telephone** (401)222-4600   **Fax** (401)222-6178   **TTY** 800-745-5555   **Voice** 800-745-6575

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**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of Rhode Island*

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Providence, Rhode Island 02903

May 25, 2004

Mr. Peter McWalters  
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Rhode Island Department of Education  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Commissioner McWalters:

On June 2, 2004, at 10:30am, I will be participating, along with a number of other law enforcement and community stakeholders, in a live one-hour TV show about a program called **Project Safe Neighborhoods**.

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a comprehensive and strategic approach to reducing gun violence in Providence. Gun crime takes a significant toll in our area, especially on young people and their families. Through PSN, local law enforcement agencies are collaborating to aggressively enforce existing gun laws and get illegal guns off the streets and out of the hands of criminals. It is also the first time that the entire law enforcement community and the myriad of community and faith-based groups have worked together to seriously address this issue.

A large component of PSN is devoted to education. Obviously, since prevention/intervention is preferable to apprehension and prosecution, we are trying to reach children, especially at-risk kids, as early as possible.

This, then, brings me to the point of this letter. I am respectfully requesting your approval and assistance in distributing via e-mail an appeal to all schools, grades 4-12, to make the broadcast available to all teachers and students. Cox Cable advises us that many schools have cable access.

With regards to program specifics:

**DATE:** Wednesday, June 2, 2004  
**TIME:** 10:30AM - 11:30AM  
**PLACE:** Cox 3 Studios in Lincoln, RI

The show will be in a form of a "town meeting" but will also include a small group of students in Providence (Cornell Young School) connected via satellite to the studio; plus pre-recorded elements. Marylou Palumbo is the show host and moderator. Audience members will be comprised of a cross-section of students, teachers, and guests. The media will be invited.

In addition to me, participants include:

Attorney General Patrick Lynch  
Asst. Attorney General James Baum  
Chief Dean Esserman, Providence Police Department  
Lt. Steve Melaragno, Providence Police Department  
Colonel Steve Pare, R.I. State Police  
Major Steve O'Donnell, R.I. State Police  
Teny Gross, Director, Institute for the Study and  
Practice of Non-Violence  
Marvin Barnes, Rebound Foundation  
Denise Carpenter, Principal, Robert Bailey School

The destruction wrought by gun crimes devastates the very core of the American family. Through this unprecedented partnership among federal, state and local law enforcement, schools and community groups, we can create safer neighborhoods.

We hope that you will help us communicating and urging Rhode to tune in. Time is of the by Island schools essence.

I am available to answer any questions you have. Please call me at 528-5477. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

CRAIG N. MOORE  
United States Attorney